Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.　**(Currently Amended)** A method for ~~the selection~~ identifying from a library of first molecules ~~of~~ at least one member that ~~of a number of~~ specifically ~~interacting~~ interacts with a second molecule ~~molecules from libraries~~, said method comprising:

(a) contacting a first molecule with a second molecule affixed to a magnetic particle under conditions that allow a specific interaction between said first molecule and second molecule to occur, wherein said first molecule is not known to interact with said second molecule;

(b) subjecting the product obtained in step (a) to at least one washing step, wherein the magnetic particles are transferred to a new container;

(c) ~~determining whether a specific interaction between~~ selecting said first molecule and second molecule which specifically interact ~~had occurred~~; and~~, if said specific interaction had occurred,~~

(d) ~~providing~~ determining the identity of said first and/or second molecule selected by steps (a) to (c), ~~wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are carried out in parallel in one or more containers, preferably representing an arrayed form, using an automated device comprising a magnetic particle processor.~~

wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are carried out in parallel in more than one container in an arrayed form, using an automated device comprising a magnetic particle processor.

2.　**(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein said first and/or second molecule is an organic molecule and/or a mixture of organic molecules and/or inorganic molecules.

3.　**(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said first and/or second molecule is a hapten.

4.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 2, wherein said first molecule is selected from the group consisting of cDNA expression products, peptides, polypeptides, nucleic acids, lipids, sugars, steroids, and hybrids of said molecules and said second molecule is selected from the group consisting of cDNA expression products, peptides, polypeptides, and nucleic acids, lipids, sugars, steroids, and hybrids of said molecules.

5.   **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein said cDNA expression product is an antibody or a fragment or a derivative thereof, an enzyme or a fragment thereof, a surface protein or a fragment thereof, or a nucleic acid-binding protein or a fragment thereof.

6.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 1, wherein said first molecule is a peptide or polypeptide presented on the surface of organisms and/or organelles and/or soluble molecules and wherein the method further comprises after step (b) and prior to step (c) the step of:

(b') amplifying a peptide or polypeptide specifically interacting with said second molecule,

wherein step (b') is carried out in one or more containers preferably representing an arrayed form.

7.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6, wherein prior to step (a) said library of first molecules (library 1) is preabsorbed with unloaded magnetic particles and/or molecules competitive (cross-reactive) to second molecules (target, library 2).

8.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6 or 7 which further comprises after step (c) and prior to step (d) the step of:

(c') repeating steps (a), (b) and (c) and, optionally, step (b') at least once.

9.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 8, wherein steps (c) and (c') are performed in parallel.

10.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said number of specifically interacting molecules is a pair of interacting molecules.

11.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein said number of specifically interacting molecules are three or more interacting molecules.

12.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of characterizing said first and/or second molecule and/or the corresponding genetic information.

13.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein said second molecule ~~target~~ is affixed to said magnetic particle via an affinity tag and/or unspecific adsorption and/or covalent binding.

14.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim ~~21~~ 13, wherein said affinity tag is a His-tag.

15.   **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) is effected by immunological means.

16.   **(Original)** The method of claim 15, wherein step (c) is effected by ELISA, RIA, western/colony blotting, FACS or immunohistochemistry.

17.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 15 or 16, wherein step (c) is effected ~~in (micro-) array format, preferably~~ on a membrane and/or filter and/or a ~~glas~~ glass slide and/or in a microtiter plate.

18.   **(Withdrawn)** A method for the production of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of the method of claim 1 and further the step of formulating said first and/or second molecule selected and/or characterized by the method of claim 1 or a functionally and/or structurally equivalent derivative thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

19.   **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~one or more~~ containers comprise one or more microtiter plates.

20.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 6, wherein said one or more containers comprise one or more microtiter plates.

21.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 13, wherein said affinity tag is selected from: a metal-chelating tag, an epitope tag, an enzyme binding domain, calmodulin, biotin, Strep-tag, protein A, protein G and protein L.

22.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 21, wherein said epitope tag is selected from: an HA-tag, a c-myc-tag, a VSV-G-tag, an α-tubulin-tag, a B-tag, an E-tag, FLAG, a HIS-tag, an HSV-tag, a PK-tag, a protein C-tag, a T7-tag, EpiTag^{TM}, a V5-tag and an S-tag.

23.   **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 21, wherein said enzyme binding domain is selected from: cellulose binding domain, barnase and maltose binding protein.

24.   **(New)** The method of claim 1, wherein the second molecule is included in a library of molecules.